

N THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-3 (cancelled).

Please amend the following claims.

4. (currently amended) A pulley as claimed in Claim 2 ~~7~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said cam follower is carried by a hub ~~(15)~~ of said fixed half-pulley ~~(7b)~~; and ~~in that~~ said slot ~~(21)~~ is formed in a sleeve ~~(17)~~ integral with said movable half-pulley ~~(7a)~~ and coaxial with, and sliding on, said hub ~~(15)~~ of said fixed half-pulley ~~(7b)~~.

5. (currently amended) A continuously-variable-ratio-drive, ~~characterized by~~ comprising an input shaft (2); a drive pulley (6) connectable to said input shaft (2); an output shaft (3); and a driven pulley (7) connected to the output shaft (3); each of said pulleys (6,7) being defined by a fixed-pulley and a movable half-pulley ~~(6a, 6b, 7, 7b)~~ defining between them a groove (8;9) of variable size for V belt (C); ~~characterized in that~~ at least one of said pulleys (6, 7) ~~comprises~~ comprising a torque-sensitive, axial thrust compensating device (20) ~~as claimed in claim 1~~ including at least one slot carried by one of said half-pulleys and at least one cam follower carried by the other of said half-pulleys and engaging said slot; said slot having a first side delimiting said slot in a first tangential direction so as to be contacted by said cam follower in response to a drive torque and to generate an axial thrust on said movable half-pulley in the belt compression direction in response to said drive torque, and a second side delimiting said slot in a second tangential direction so as to be contacted by said cam follower in response to a braking torque and to generate an axial thrust on said movable half-pulley in the belt compression direction in response to said braking torque; said first and second sides of said slot converging with one another to form an axial end portion of said slot that is engaged by said cam follower when said fixed and movable half-pulleys are in a maximum-parted position, said slot having a base side defining an axial stop for said cam follower in a maximum-approach position of said fixed and movable half-pulleys, said second side having a

sloping profile extending from said base side to said axial end portion, said first side having an inclined portion adjacent to said base portion with a slope opposite to said second side and converging with respect to said second side towards said end portion of said slot, and an intermediate knee portion between said inclined portion and said axial end portion.

6. (currently amended) A device as claimed in Claim 5, ~~characterized by~~ comprising a centrifugal control device ~~(13)~~ acting on said drive pulley ~~(6)~~ to vary the size of said groove ~~(8)~~ of said drive pulley ~~(6)~~ as a function of the speed of said input shaft ~~(2)~~ ; said half-pulleys ~~(7a, 7b)~~ of said drive pulley ~~(7)~~ being loaded axially towards each other by a spring ~~(14)~~ ; and said compensating device ~~(20)~~ acting on said half-pulleys ~~(7a, 7b)~~ of said driven pulley ~~(7)~~ in the same direction as said spring ~~(14)~~ .

Please add the following claims.

7. (new) A pulley for a continuously-variable-ratio drive, comprising a fixed half-pulley fixed to a shaft of said drive; a movable half-pulley mounted to slide axially with respect to said fixed half-pulley to define therewith a V groove of variable size; and a torque-sensitive, axial thrust compensating device including at least one slot carried by one of said half pulleys and at least one cam follower carried by the other said half-pulleys and engaging said slot; said slot having a first side delimiting said slot in a first tangential direction so as to be contacted by said cam follower in response to a drive torque and to generate an axial thrust on said movable half-pulley in a belt compression direction in response to said drive torque, and a second slide delimiting said slot in a second tangential direction so as to be contacted by said cam follower in response to a braking torque and to generate an axial thrust on said movable half-pulley in the belt compression direction in response to said braking torque; said first and second sides of said slot converging with one another to form an axial end portion of said slot that is engaged by said cam follower when said fixed and movable half-pulleys are in a maximum-parted position, said slot having a base side defining an axial stop for said cam follower in a maximum-approach position of said fixed and

movable half-pulleys, said second side having a sloping profile extending from said base side to said axial end portion, said first side having an inclined portion adjacent to said base portion with a slope opposite said second side and converging with respect to said second side towards said end portion of said slot, and an intermediate knee portion between said inclined portion and said axial end portion.

8. (new) A pulley as claimed in claim 7, wherein said second side has inwardly convex profile with a gradually decreasing slope from said base side to said axial end portion of said slot.